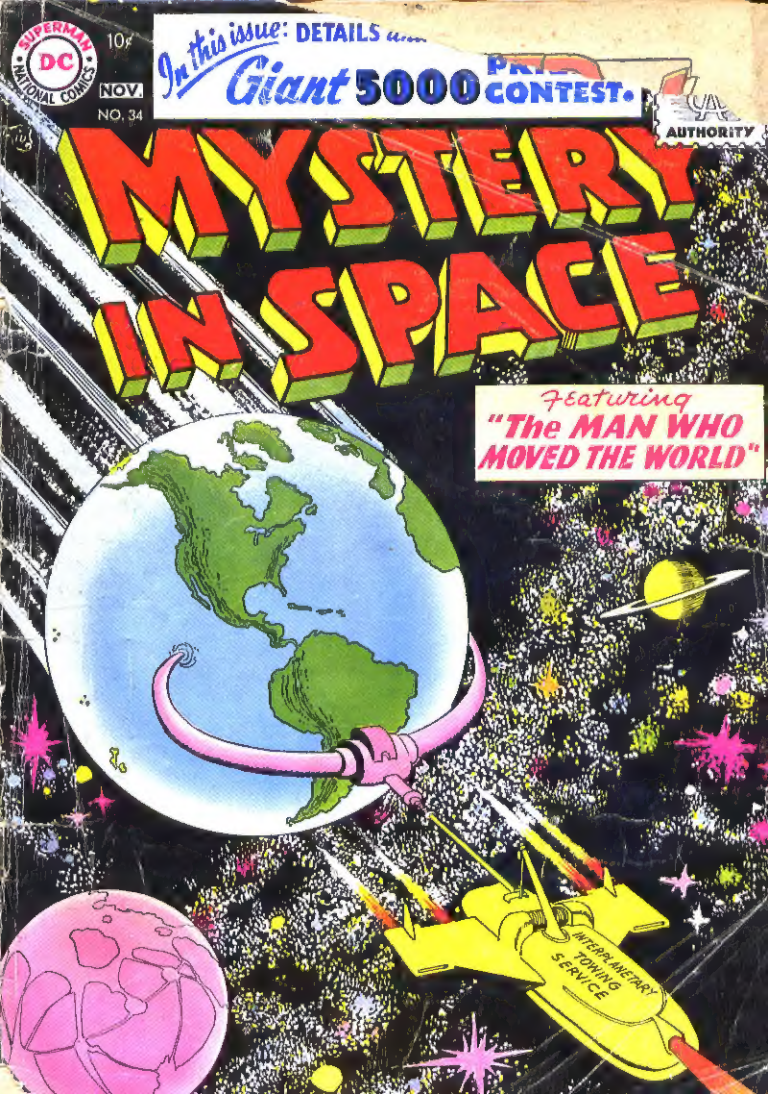
SUPERMAN
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NATIONAL COMICS
10¢
NOV.
NO. 34
In this issue: DETAILS of the Giant 5000 PRIZE CONTEST.
AUTHORITY
MYSTERY IN SPACE
Featuring
"The MAN WHO MOVED THE WORLD"
INTERPLANETARY TOWING SERVICE

IDENTIFY EVEN THE STRANGEST STAMPS—*at a glance!*

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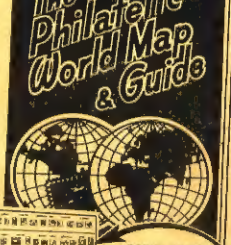
authentic Mercator projection map, used by air and sea navigators.

2 STAMP FINDER
identifies stamps around the world—no matter how strange their script letters.

3 ENCYCLOPEDIA OF STAMP-ISSUING COUNTRIES
Tells area, location, population, parent country, etc.



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—postwar stamp shows that country striving for peace.

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The Man Who MOVED the WORLD!

IF ONLY I COULD FIGURE OUT HOW THAT PINCER-BIRD CAN PULL SO MANY TIMES ITS OWN WEIGHT, IT MIGHT BE THE CLUE I NEED TO SAVE THE EARTH!
CYRO DYNTON HAD NO IDEA OF WHAT DESTINY HELD IN STORE FOR HIM AS THROUGH HIS EARLY MANHOOD HE VAINLY SOUGHT TO FIND HIS PROPER NICHE IN THE WORLD OF THE 25TH CENTURY!
JUST WHEN IT SEEMED THAT HE COULD SUCCEED IN NO PROFESSION, HE WAS HANDED THE BIGGEST AND MOST IMPORTANT JOB ON EARTH!

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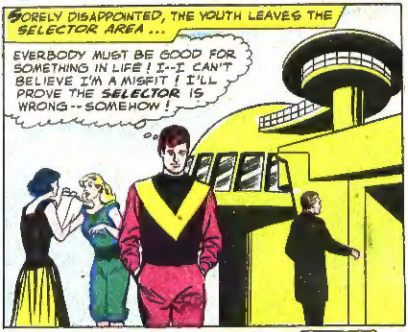
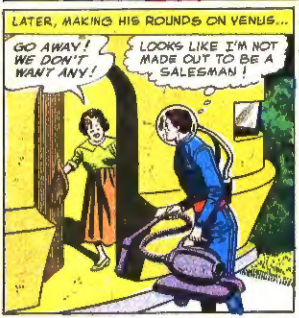
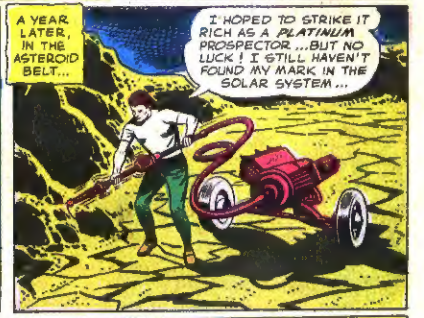
Printed in U.S.A.

IN THE 25TH CENTURY, A GROUP OF YOUNG APPLICANTS ASSEMBLES FOR THE MOST IMPORTANT TEST OF THEIR LIVES...
MEN, YOU ARE ABOUT TO BE EXAMINED BY THE GREAT SELECTOR! THE GREAT MACHINE HAS BEEN SCIENTIFICALLY DESIGNED TO CLASSIFY YOU AND DETERMINE YOUR FUTURE PROFESSION!
AS CYRO DYNTON LISTENS WITH HOPE AND ANXIETY...
YOU WILL ENTER THE SELECTOR ROOM ONE BY ONE...
I WONDER WHAT PROFESSION THE SELECTOR WILL ASSIGN ME TO?
INSIDE THE SELECTOR ROOM AS THE APPLICANTS ARE PUT THROUGH THEIR PACES BY A HUGE MACHINE...
GOOD BALANCE...POOR SENSE OF DIRECTION... SPACESIGHT 20-30.
THE SCIENCE SECTION OF THIS APPLICANT'S BRAIN IS WELL DEVELOPED! HIS FUTURE IS CLEAR...
21 SECONDS TO PUT THE PUZZLE TOGETHER! EXCELLENT HAND CONTROL... GOOD MECHANICAL ABILITY...
I'VE BEEN SELECTED FOR THE ATOMIC INSTITUTE!
I'M GOING TO BE AN ENGINEER...
...AN ASTRO-PHYSICIST!
THE S-SELECTOR DIDN'T ASSIGN ME TO ANY PROFESSION! I'M NOT EQUIPPED TO DO ANYTHING! WHAT'S GOING TO BECOME OF ME?
UNCLASSIFIED


SORELY DISAPPOINTED, THE YOUTH LEAVES THE SELECTOR AREA ...
EVERBODY MUST BE GOOD FOR SOMETHING IN LIFE ! I--I CAN'T BELIEVE I'M A MISFIT ! I'LL PROVE THE SELECTOR IS WRONG -- SOMEHOW !

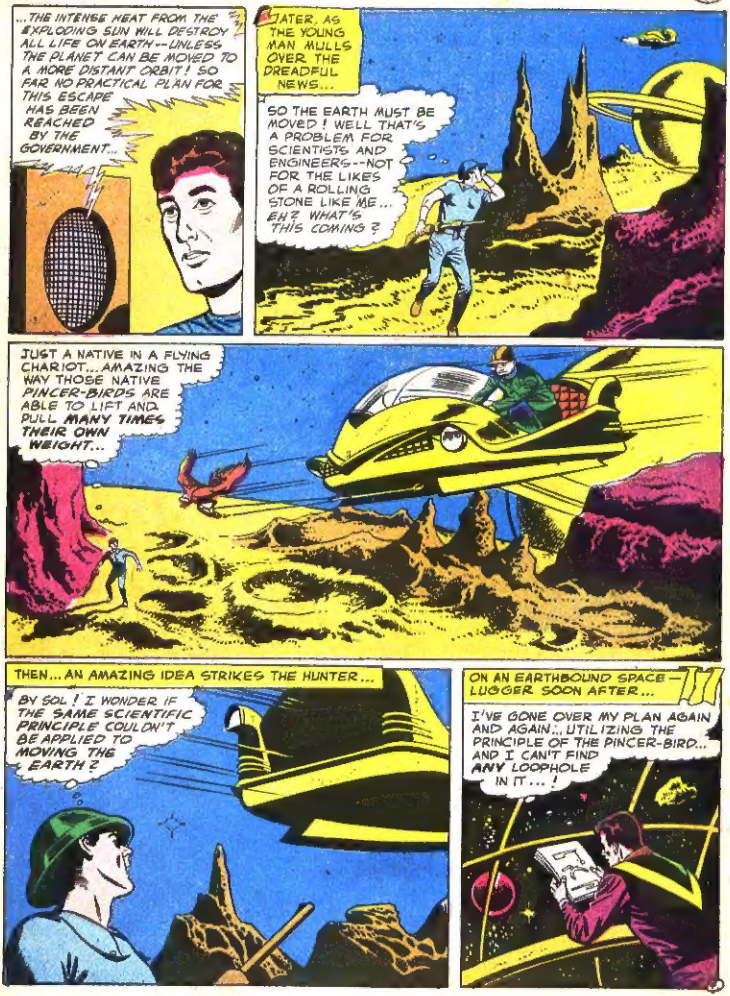
AS THE MONTHS GO BY, DYNTON HAUNTS THE EMPLOYMENT SERVICES...
MEN WANTED
SPACE-LINER COOKS
SALESMEN TO TOUR VENUS
ROCKET PILOTS
BABY SITTERS
FISHERMEN
SALESMEN TO GO TO VENUS ! MAYBE THAT'S WHAT I'M DESTINED TO BE -- A SALESMAN ! I'LL GIVE IT A TRY !


LATER, MAKING HIS ROUNDS ON VENUS...
GO AWAY ! WE DON'T WANT ANY !
LOOKS LIKE I'M NOT MADE OUT TO BE A SALESMAN !


A YEAR LATER, IN THE ASTEROID BELT...
I HOPED TO STRIKE IT RICH AS A PLATINUM PROSPECTOR ...BUT NO LUCK ! I STILL HAVEN'T FOUND MY MARK IN THE SOLAR SYSTEM ...

ON A MOON OF SATURN, SOON AFTER...
WELL, I'VE ABOUT REACHED THE BOTTOM OF THE HEAP ! CAN'T GET MUCH LOWER THAN SHOOTING FLYING FROG PESTS FOR THE BOUNTY THEY BRING ! THE GOVERNMENT PAYS 20 CREDITS FOR EACH ONE SHOT !

IN THE GOVERNMENT SHACK, THAT NIGHT, AS DYNTON TURNS ON THE INTERPLANETARY RADIO...
SPECIAL BULLETIN ! SCIENTISTS HAVE JUST COMPLETED THEIR CALCULATIONS ! THEY ARE NOW SURE THAT OUR SUN IS ABOUT TO BURST INTO A SUPER-NOVA !
WH-- WHAT'S THAT MEAN ?


...THE INTENSE HEAT FROM THE EXPLODING SUN WILL DESTROY ALL LIFE ON EARTH--UNLESS THE PLANET CAN BE MOVED TO A MORE DISTANT ORBIT! SO FAR NO PRACTICAL PLAN FOR THIS ESCAPE HAS BEEN REACHED BY THE GOVERNMENT...
LATER, AS THE YOUNG MAN MULLS OVER THE DREADFUL NEWS...
SO THE EARTH MUST BE MOVED! WELL THAT'S A PROBLEM FOR SCIENTISTS AND ENGINEERS--NOT FOR THE LIKES OF A ROLLING STONE LIKE ME... EH? WHAT'S THIS COMING?
JUST A NATIVE IN A FLYING CHARIOT... AMAZING THE WAY THOSE NATIVE PINCER-BIRDS ARE ABLE TO LIFT AND PULL MANY TIMES THEIR OWN WEIGHT...
THEN... AN AMAZING IDEA STRIKES THE HUNTER...
BY SOL! I WONDER IF THE SAME SCIENTIFIC PRINCIPLE COULDN'T BE APPLIED TO MOVING THE EARTH?
ON AN EARTHBOUND SPACE-LUGGER SOON AFTER...
I'VE GONE OVER MY PLAN AGAIN AND AGAIN... UTILIZING THE PRINCIPLE OF THE PINCER-BIRD... AND I CAN'T FIND ANY LOOPHOLE IN IT...!

IN EARTH CITY, DYNTON HEADS AT ONCE FOR THE SUPREME SCIENCE COUNCIL WITH HIS PLANS...
HOW TENSE EVERYBODY LOOKS HERE ON EARTH! THEY KEEP GLANCING UPWARD TOWARD THE SUN... HELPLESSLY AWAITING THE SOLAR EXPLOSION! THERE ARE NO FACILITIES OR TIME TO REMOVE EVERYONE FROM THE DOOMED PLANET...
THE SUN IS BIGGER AND REDDER THAN I'VE EVER SEEN IT! IT MUST BE ON THE VERGE OF TURNING INTO A SUPER-NOVA! I BETTER HURRY!
SUPREME SCIENCE COU
THE FOLLOWING DAY, DYNTON WATCHES A TELECAST...
THERE WERE 9,427 PLANS AND SCHEMES SUBMITTED TO THE COUNCIL FOR MOVING THE EARTH! WE SELECTED THE ONE WE CONSIDER BEST! IT WAS SUBMITTED BY CYRO DYNTON...
DID I HEAR RIGHT? THAT'S ME!
SHORTLY, AT AN EMERGENCY MEETING...
... AND WE ARE PUTTING YOU IN CHARGE OF BUILDING THE GIANT PINCER-ROCKET DESCRIBED IN YOUR PLAN, DYNTON!
I'VE BEEN GIVEN THE BIGGEST JOB ON EARTH -- TO SAVE THE EARTH!
SOON, THE GREAT PINCER-ROCKET IS BUILT IN SPACE...
WE'RE READY FOR A POWER TEST OF THE MOTORS, GENERAL!
RIGHT, MR. DYNTON! I'LL TAKE CARE OF THAT IMMEDIATELY!

FINALLY, WITH EVERY DETAIL CHECKED AND RE-CHECKED, THE HUGE PINCER-ROCKET GRIPS THE EARTH AND PULLS IT OUT OF THE SOLAR SYSTEM!

WE'RE MOVING! IT'S PULLING THE EARTH... JUST AS THE PINCER-BIRD PULLED THAT CHARIOT BACK ON THE ASTEROID!

THE SUN IS EXPLODING! WE'LL HARDLY FEEL THE EFFECTS OUT HERE!

AS THE GLOBE IS TOWED INTO A NEW ORBIT AROUND ALPHA CENTAURI, THE NEAREST STAR...

FROM NOW ON, ALPHA CENTAURI WILL BE OUR SUN! THE EARTH WILL CIRCLE THIS STAR JUST AS IT DID OUR FORMER SUN!

SHORTLY, AT AN OFFICIAL AND JOYOUS BANQUET ON EARTH...

...AND IN THE HISTORY OF OUR PLANET, THE NAME CYRO DYNTON MUST BE RANGED ALONGSIDE OUR GREATEST HEROES...

NOW I KNOW WHY THE GREAT SELECTOR LABELLED ME "UNCLASSIFIED"...

AT THAT TIME THERE WAS NO NECESSITY TO SELECT ANYONE TO MOVE THE EARTH--AND IT WAS BEYOND THE MACHINE'S POWERS TO PREDICT SUCH AN EMERGENCY TASK! ALL OF WHICH PROVES HUMAN INSENUITY WILL ALWAYS BE SUPERIOR TO THE COLD CALCULATIONS OF A MACHINE!

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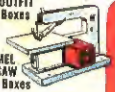

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Just fill-in and mail the coupon to become a member of the J. S. C. A. Mark on the coupon whether you want to start with 12 or 20 boxes of Christmas Cards. (If prize is for more than 20 boxes, start with your first order for 20 boxes.) We will send your prize-winning boxes of cards on credit because WE TRUST YOU. It's quick and it's EASY! Drop the coupon in the mail NOW! ACT QUICKLY TO GET FREE MEMBERSHIP CARD.

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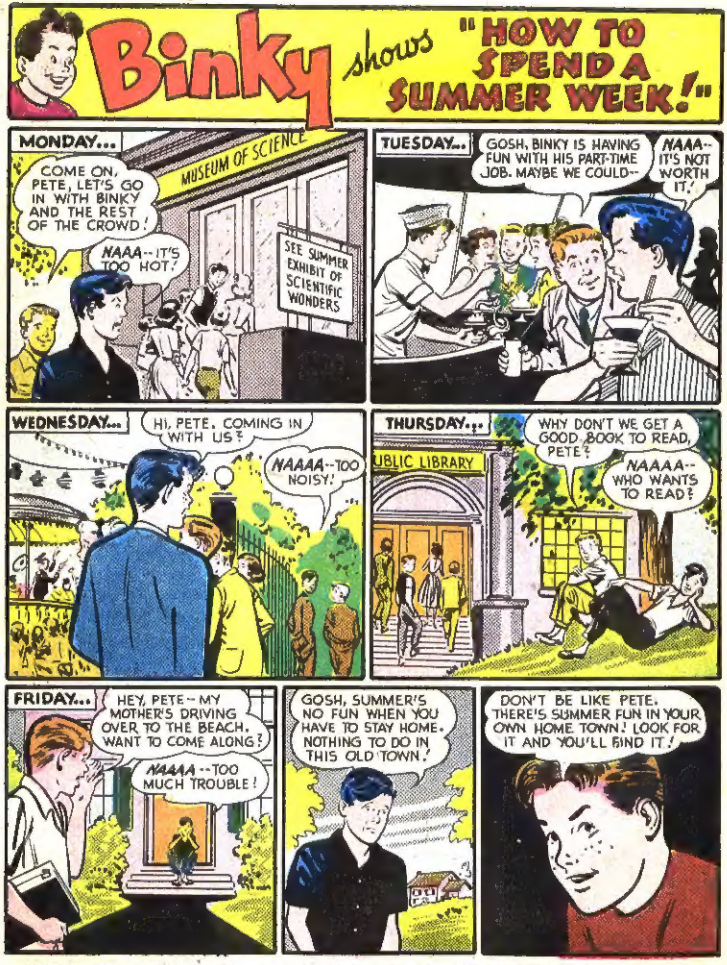
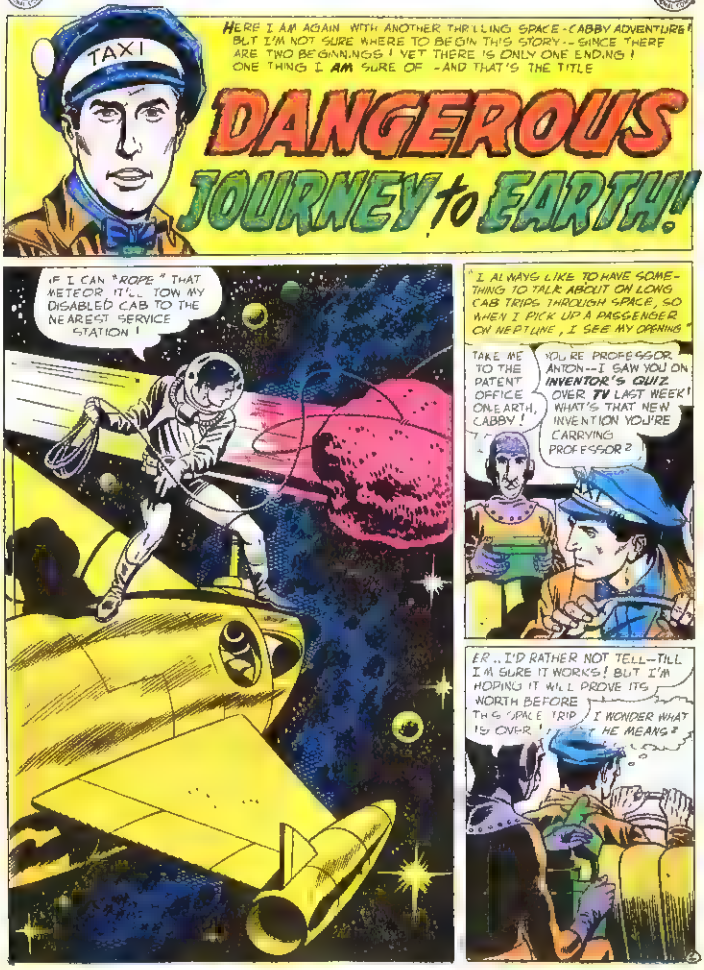
Print Name Clearly

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____


Binky shows "HOW TO SPEND A SUMMER WEEK!"
MONDAY...
COME ON, PETE, LET'S GO IN WITH BINKY AND THE REST OF THE CROWD!
NAAA--IT'S TOO HOT!
MUSEUM OF SCIENCE
SEE SUMMER EXHIBIT OF SCIENTIFIC WONDERS
TUESDAY...
GOSH, BINKY IS HAVING FUN WITH HIS PART-TIME JOB. MAYBE WE COULD--
NAAA--IT'S NOT WORTH IT!
WEDNESDAY...
HI, PETE. COMING IN WITH US?
NAAAA--TOO NOISY!
THURSDAY...
WHY DON'T WE GET A GOOD BOOK TO READ, PETE?
UBLIC LIBRARY
NAAAA--WHO WANTS TO READ?
FRIDAY...
HEY, PETE--MY MOTHER'S DRIVING OVER TO THE BEACH. WANT TO COME ALONG?
NAAAA--TOO MUCH TROUBLE!
GOSH, SUMMER'S NO FUN WHEN YOU HAVE TO STAY HOME. NOTHING TO DO IN THIS OLD TOWN!
DON'T BE LIKE PETE. THERE'S SUMMER FUN IN YOUR OWN HOME TOWN! LOOK FOR IT AND YOU'LL FIND IT!

PUBLISHED AS A PUBLIC SERVICE IN COOPERATION WITH THE NATIONAL SOCIAL WELFARE ASSEMBLY, COORDINATING ORGANIZATION FOR NATIONAL HEALTH, WELFARE AND RECREATION AGENCIES OF THE U. S.


TAXI
HERE I AM AGAIN WITH ANOTHER THRILLING SPACE-CABBY ADVENTURE! BUT I'M NOT SURE WHERE TO BEGIN THIS STORY--SINCE THERE ARE TWO BEGINNINGS! YET THERE IS ONLY ONE ENDING! ONE THING I AM SURE OF--AND THAT'S THE TITLE
DANGEROUS JOURNEY to EARTH!
IF I CAN "ROPE" THAT METEOR IT'LL TOW MY DISABLED CAB TO THE NEAREST SERVICE STATION!
"I ALWAYS LIKE TO HAVE SOMETHING TO TALK ABOUT ON LONG CAB TRIPS THROUGH SPACE, SO WHEN I PICK UP A PASSENGER ON NEPTUNE, I SEE MY OPENING"
TAKE ME TO THE PATENT OFFICE ON EARTH, CABBY!
YOU'RE PROFESSOR ANTON--I SAW YOU ON INVENTOR'S QUIZ OVER TV LAST WEEK! WHAT'S THAT NEW INVENTION YOU'RE CARRYING PROFESSOR?
ER..I'D RATHER NOT TELL--TILL I'M SURE IT WORKS! BUT I'M HOPING IT WILL PROVE ITS WORTH BEFORE THIS SPACE TRIP
I WONDER WHAT HE MEANS?

"I'M LOST IN DEEP THOUGHT, WHEN SUDDENLY I REALIZE WE'RE HEADING THROUGH A METEOR SWARM."
GOT TO STEER CAREFULLY AND WEAVE PAST THOSE METALLIC CHUNKS!
"IT'S EASY BY-PASSING THE LARGE METEORS - BUT A PEA SIZED ONE PROVES MY UNDOING."
IT PUNCTURED MY FUEL-TANK! MY ATOMIC GAS IS LEAKING OUT--AND THE NEAREST SPACE GAS STATION IS A MILLION MILES AWAY!
"THEN I REMEMBER WHAT THE PROFESSOR SAID BEFORE"
CAN YOUR INVENTION HELP US? IS IT GOOD FOR AN EMERGENCY LIKE THIS--
SORRY, CABBY, IT ISN'T! BUT I'M SURE THE TROUBLE ISN'T...ER AS BAD AS IT SEEMS!
TAXI
"WHAT A QUEER REMARK! BUT THEN I FORGET IT, AS AN IDEA HITS ME LIKE A COMET"
YOU SIT HERE AND RELAX PROFESSOR--WHILE I PUT ON MY SPACE-SUIT AND PLAY SPACE-COWBOY!
"CLIMBING OUT ON TOP OF MY CAB, I HURL MY ROPE AT THE PASSING METEORS."
LASSOED ONE!

HOLD ON, PROFESSOR! WE'RE HITCHING A RIDE TO THE NEXT GAS STATION!
"WHEN WE REACH IT, I CUT THE ROPE AND..."
NOW TO GET BACK AT THE CONTROLS AND GENTLY DROP THE CAB DOWN TO THAT SERVICE STATION!
"BEFORE LONG, WE'RE JETTING ON OUR WAY AGAIN..."
I WAS CONFIDENT YOU'D PULL US THROUGH, CABBY!
NO THANKS TO THAT INVENTION OF YOURS, WHATEVER IT IS!
"WE'RE SOMEWHERE BETWEEN JUPITER AND MARS WHEN TROUBLE STRIKES AGAIN..."
MY SPACE-RADAR MAST BROKE OFF! WITHOUT RADAR IN WIDE OPEN SPACE, WE'RE HOPELESSLY LOST!
PROFESSOR--BY ANY CHANCE IS YOUR INVENTION AN "ELECTRONIC BRAIN" THAT CAN PLOT A ROUTE TO EARTH?
NO, NOTHING LIKE THAT, CABBY!
TAXI
"SO THERE WE ARE DRIFTING BLINDLY THROUGH INTER-PLANETARY DEEPS, TOO FAR OUT TO SPOT INHABITED PLANETS..."
EARTH IS ONE OF THOSE "STARS"--BUT WHICH ONE? WE'RE LIKE A SHIP LOST AT SEA WITHOUT A COMPASS! HEY! THAT'S IT!

"I LAND ON THE FIRST ASTEROID I CAN FIND, AND START LOOKING FOR SOMETHING WITH AN IRON NAIL . . ."
MOST WORLDS HOLD NATURAL LODESTONE, WHICH IS MAGNETIC ! AH... MY NAIL IS BEING ATTRACTED BY THOSE ROCKS ! THAT LONG "NEEDLE" OF LODESTONE IS WHAT I WANT !
"I MOUNT THE LONG LODESTONE ON MY CAB IN SUCH A WAY THAT . "
IT'LL ACT LIKE A COMPASS NEEDLE -- I HOPE !
"IN SPACE, THE GIANT NEEDLE SWINGS TOWARD A 'NORTH POLE' MILLIONS OF MILES AWAY ! "
THE MAGNETIC LODESTONE IS POINTING STRAIGHT TOWARD THE LARGEST MASS OF IRON IN SPACE -- THE CORE OF EARTH !
* LITHOSPHERE -- EARTH'S CRUST -- 30 MILES THICK
MOLTEN MAGMA 1500 MILES DOWN.
COMPRESSED CORE OF IRON AND NICKEL -- 500 MILES IN DIAMETER !
DIAGRAMMATIC VIEW OF EARTH . .
"AS I POINT MY SHIP EARTHWARD, I'M WONDERING WHAT IN THE UNIVERSE HIS INVENTION IS GOOD FOR ANYWAY ! "
YOU EXPECTED THIS SPACE-TRIP WOULD PROVE ITS WORTH ! BUT TWICE IT FAILED TO HELP US ! S IT A DUD, PROFESSOR ?
FAR FROM IT, CABBY ! YOU'LL SEE WHEN THE RIGHT TIME COMES !
"I'M WONDERING IF IT'S THE RIGHT TIME LATER, WHEN MY LUCK TURNS WORSE THAN A PLUTONIAN ICE MAN CAUGHT IN A FURNACE ! "
A COSMIC AURORA AHEAD, COMPOSED OF SHEETS OF DEADLY COSMIC RAYS ! I-I CAN'T STOP THE CAB IN TIME !

NOW'S THE TIME FOR YOUR INVENTION TO COME THROUGH OR WE'RE COOKED... GULP! CAN IT BORE A HOLE THROUGH A COSMIC AURORA OR SOMETHING?
NO--NOTHING LIKE THAT!
"THE PROFESSOR IS AS COOL AS A MARTIAN CUCUMBER! ME, I'M SWEATING IT OUT--WHEN A BEAD OF PERSPIRATION ROLLING DOWN MY FACE GIVES ME AN IDEA."
I'LL TAKE OFF THIS RUBBER PATCH FROM A FORMER SMALL METEOR HOLE--THEN STICK THIS TUBE OUTSIDE, SPRAYING MY CAB WITH MY EMERGENCY WATER SUPPLY!
"SPACE IS BITTERLY COLD--CLOSE TO ABSOLUTE ZERO--459 DEGREES BELOW ZERO! AND THUS..."
NOW WE'RE COATED WITH PROTECTIVE ICE! IT'LL GET US THROUGH THE COSMIC AURORA--IF THE FLAME CURTAIN ISN'T TOO DEEP!
"WE HIT THE COSMIC FLAMES IN THE ICE-COATED CAB."
THE ICE IS STARTING TO MELT. HOW MUCH LONGER BEFORE WE GET THROUGH?
"WE ONLY SEE MORE FLAMES AHEAD, AS IF WE'RE PLOWING THROUGH THE MOLTEN SUN ITSELF!"
THE ICE IS ALMOST GONE NOW! IF WE DON'T REACH THE OTHER SIDE SOON.

"THEN, JUST AS THE LAST LAYER OF ICE MELTS..."
WE'RE CLEAR--JUST IN TIME!
HOW CAN YOU BE SO CALM, PROFESSOR--AFTER THE DANGER WE JUST PASSED THROUGH?
WE WERE NEVER IN ANY DANGER, CABBY! I'D BETTER EXPLAIN BY TELLING YOU MY INVENTION IS A FUTUROSCOPE--A MACHINE THAT ENABLES ONE TO VISUALIZE FUTURE EVENTS! IT WAS SECRETLY BEAMED AT YOUR MIND ALL ALONG!
TAXI
YOU MEAN THAT NONE OF THESE EVENTS REALLY HAPPENED AT ALL?
CORRECT! IT WAS ALL PROJECTED INTO YOUR MIND--ROPING THE METEOR--THE SPACE COMPASS--ICING THE CAB--EVERYTHING! THAT'S WHY I WAS CALM ALL THE TIME--THERE WAS NO REAL DANGER!
"LOOKING OUT THE WINDSHIELD, I GET ANOTHER SHOCK..."
RIGHT!
WHY--WE'RE STILL ON NEPTUNE! OUR TRIP TO EARTH HASN'T EVEN STARTED YET!
THOSE FUTURE HAPPENINGS ALL FLASHED THROUGH YOUR MIND IN SHORT MOMENTS BEFORE YOU SHIFTED INTO JET GEAR!
NEPTUNE CITY
"AFTER I START THE SECOND TIME..."
NOW, IF THOSE SPACE EVENTS REALLY HAPPEN ON OUR TRIP TO EARTH, YOU'LL BE MY WITNESS THAT THE FUTUROSCOPE WORKS! BUT WHAT'S THE MATTER, CABBY?
I JUST REALIZED SOMETHING!
TAXI
SNAP
TAXI
AS LONG AS WE HAVE TO GO THROUGH ALL THOSE SPACE-DANGERS AGAIN--HOW ABOUT PAYING ME DOUBLE FARE?
The End

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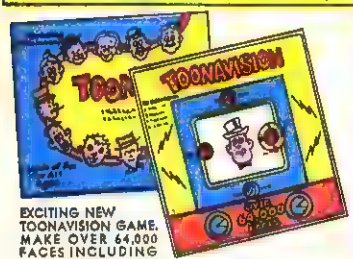

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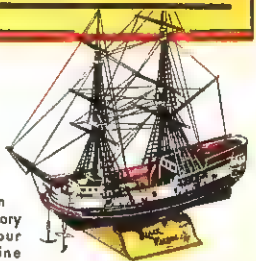

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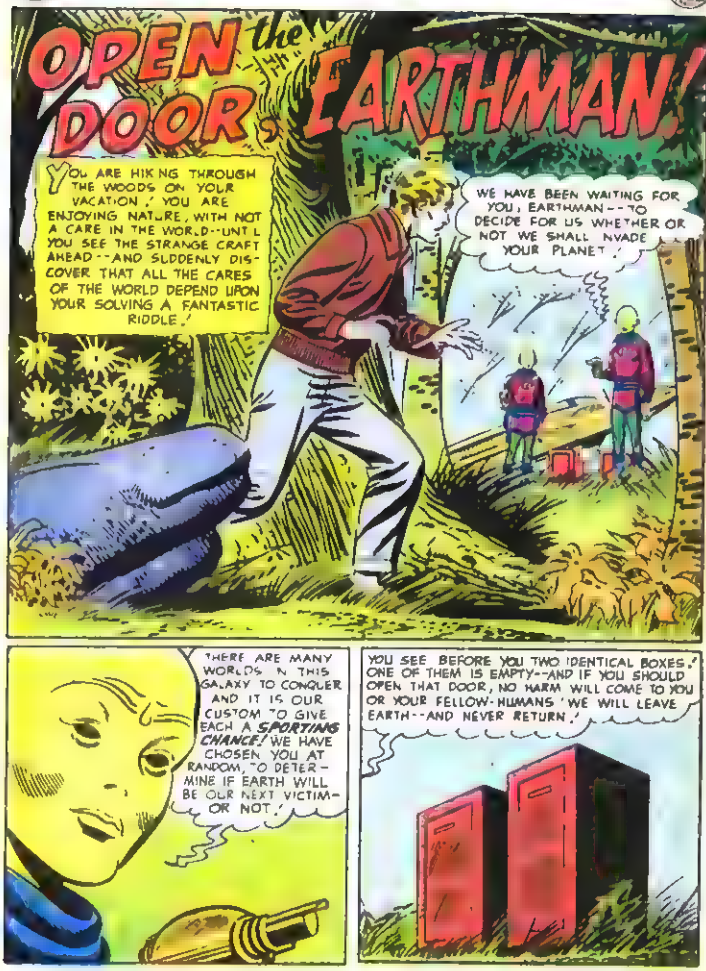
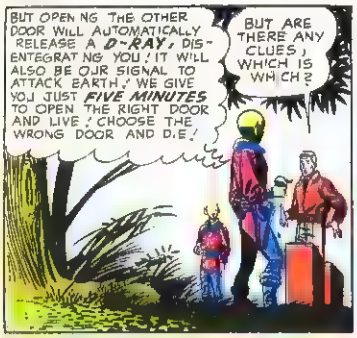
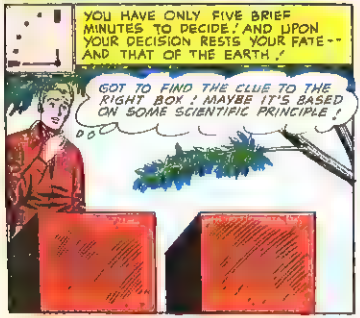
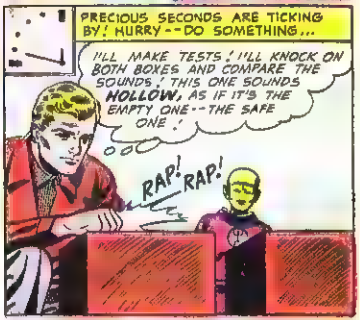
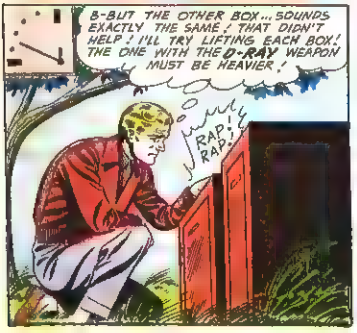

OPEN the DOOR, EARTHMAN!
YOU ARE HIKING THROUGH THE WOODS ON YOUR VACATION.' YOU ARE ENJOYING NATURE, WITH NOT A CARE IN THE WORLD--UNTIL YOU SEE THE STRANGE CRAFT AHEAD--AND SUDDENLY DISCOVER THAT ALL THE CARES OF THE WORLD DEPEND UPON YOUR SOLVING A FANTASTIC RIDDLE.'
WE HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU, EARTHMAN--TO DECIDE FOR US WHETHER OR NOT WE SHALL INVADE YOUR PLANET.'
THERE ARE MANY WORLDS IN THIS GALAXY TO CONQUER AND IT IS OUR CUSTOM TO GIVE EACH A SPORTING CHANCE! WE HAVE CHOSEN YOU AT RANDOM, TO DETERMINE IF EARTH WILL BE OUR NEXT VICTIM--OR NOT.'
YOU SEE BEFORE YOU TWO IDENTICAL BOXES.' ONE OF THEM IS EMPTY--AND IF YOU SHOULD OPEN THAT DOOR, NO HARM WILL COME TO YOU OR YOUR FELLOW-HUMANS.' WE WILL LEAVE EARTH--AND NEVER RETURN.'

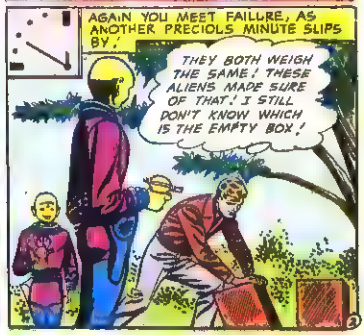

BUT OPENING THE OTHER DOOR WILL AUTOMATICALLY RELEASE A D-RAY, DISINTEGRATING YOU! IT WILL ALSO BE OUR SIGNAL TO ATTACK EARTH! WE GIVE YOU JUST FIVE MINUTES TO OPEN THE RIGHT DOOR AND LIVE! CHOOSE THE WRONG DOOR AND D.E.!
BUT ARE THERE ANY CLUES, WHICH IS WHICH?

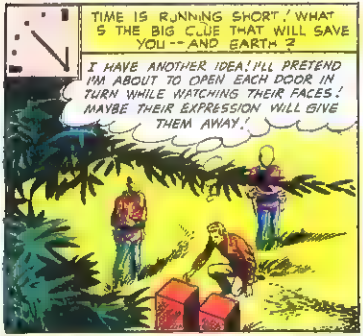
YES, THERE IS A CLUE TO GUIDE YOU--IF YOUR MIND IS SHARP ENOUGH TO DETECT IT! TIME BEGINS NOW!

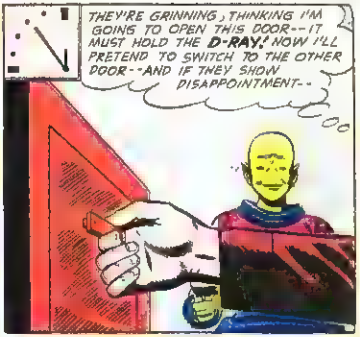

YOU HAVE ONLY FIVE BRIEF MINUTES TO DECIDE! AND UPON YOUR DECISION RESTS YOUR FATE--AND THAT OF THE EARTH!
GOT TO FIND THE CLUE TO THE RIGHT BOX! MAYBE IT'S BASED ON SOME SCIENTIFIC PRINCIPLE!

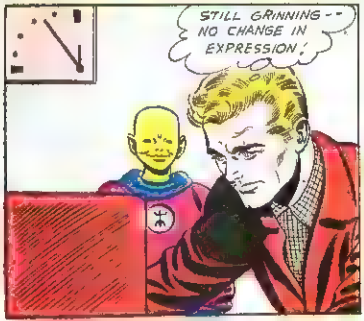

PRECIOUS SECONDS ARE TICKING BY! HURRY--DO SOMETHING...
I'LL MAKE TESTS! I'LL KNOCK ON BOTH BOXES AND COMPARE THE SOUNDS! THIS ONE SOUNDS HOLLOW, AS IF IT'S THE EMPTY ONE--THE SAFE ONE!
RAP! RAP!

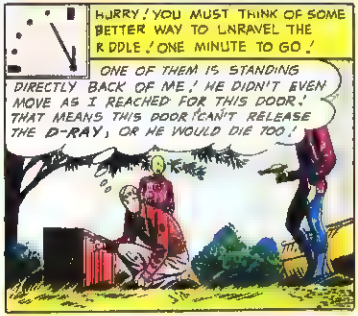

B-BUT THE OTHER BOX... SOUNDS EXACTLY THE SAME! THAT DIDN'T HELP! I'LL TRY LIFTING EACH BOX! THE ONE WITH THE D-RAY WEAPON MUST BE HEAVIER!
RAP! RAP!

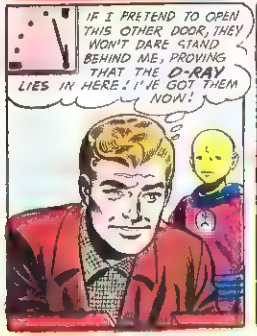

AGAIN YOU MEET FAILURE, AS ANOTHER PRECIOUS MINUTE SLIPS BY!
THEY BOTH WEIGH THE SAME! THESE ALIENS MADE SURE OF THAT! I STILL DON'T KNOW WHICH IS THE EMPTY BOX!

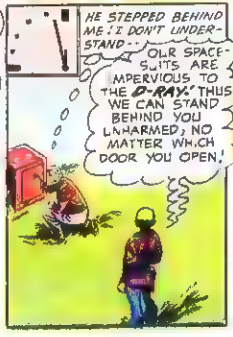

TIME IS RUNNING SHORT! WHAT S THE BIG CLUE THAT WILL SAVE YOU--AND EARTH?
I HAVE ANOTHER IDEA! I'LL PRETEND I'M ABOUT TO OPEN EACH DOOR IN TURN WHILE WATCHING THEIR FACES! MAYBE THEIR EXPRESSION WILL GIVE THEM AWAY!

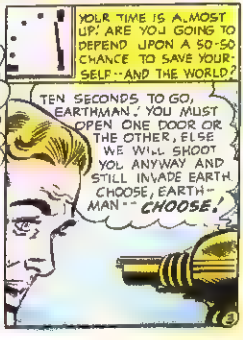

THEY'RE GRINNING, THINKING I'M GOING TO OPEN THIS DOOR--IT MUST HOLD THE D-RAY! NOW I'LL PRETEND TO SWITCH TO THE OTHER DOOR--AND IF THEY SHOW DISAPPOINTMENT--


STILL GRINNING--NO CHANGE IN EXPRESSION!

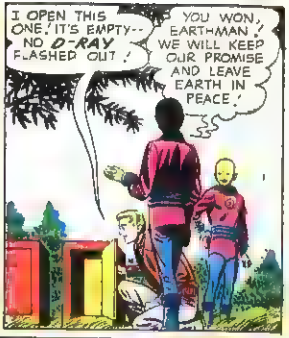

HURRY! YOU MUST THINK OF SOME BETTER WAY TO UNRAVEL THE R DDLE! ONE MINUTE TO GO!
ONE OF THEM IS STANDING DIRECTLY BACK OF ME! HE DIDN'T EVEN MOVE AS I REACHED FOR THIS DOOR! THAT MEANS THIS DOOR CAN'T RELEASE THE D-RAY, OR HE WOULD DIE TOO!

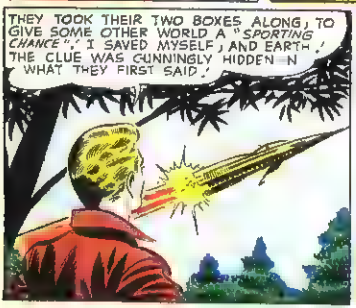

IF I PRETEND TO OPEN THIS OTHER DOOR, THEY WON'T DARE STAND BEHIND ME, PROVING THAT THE D-RAY LIES IN HERE! I'VE GOT THEM NOW!


HE STEPPED BEHIND ME! I DON'T UNDERSTAND--
OUR SPACE-SUITS ARE IMPERVIOUS TO THE D-RAY! THUS WE CAN STAND BEHIND YOU UNHARMED; NO MATTER WHICH DOOR YOU OPEN!

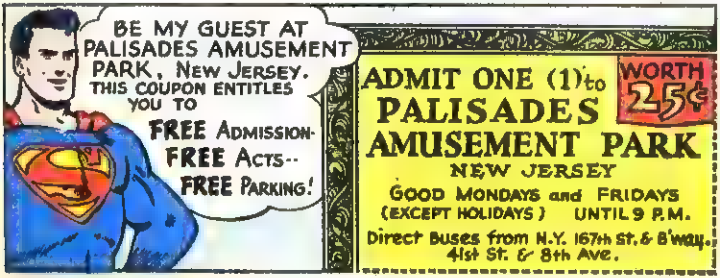

YOUR TIME IS ALMOST UP! ARE YOU GOING TO DEPEND UPON A 50-50 CHANCE TO SAVE YOURSELF--AND THE WORLD?
TEN SECONDS TO GO, EARTHMAN! YOU MUST OPEN ONE DOOR OR THE OTHER, ELSE WE WILL SHOOT YOU ANYWAY AND STILL INVADE EARTH. CHOOSE, EARTHMAN--CHOOSE!

TIME'S UP! WHICH DOOR DO YOU CHOOSE? YOU, DEAR READER, NOW HAVE ALL THE CLUES BEFORE YOU! IF YOUR LIFE--AND EARTH'S SAFETY--LAY IN *YOUR* HANDS, WOULD YOU NOW *OPEN THE RIGHT DOOR?*




THEY TOOK THEIR TWO BOXES ALONG, TO GIVE SOME OTHER WORLD A "SPORTING CHANCE". I SAVED MYSELF, AND EARTH! THE CLUE WAS CUNNINGLY HIDDEN IN WHAT THEY FIRST SAID!

THEY SAID: "OPEN THE RIGHT DOOR AND LIVE! CHOOSE THE WRONG DOOR AND DIE!" THE SECRET CLUE WAS TO PICK THE *RIGHT* DOOR, NOT THE *LEFT!*
SIMPLE, AFTER IT'S ALL OVER! BUT WOULD *YOU* HAVE SAVED THE WORLD IN THE FIVE MINUTES IT TOOK TO READ THIS?
THE END


BE MY GUEST AT PALISADES AMUSEMENT PARK, NEW JERSEY. THIS COUPON ENTITLES YOU TO
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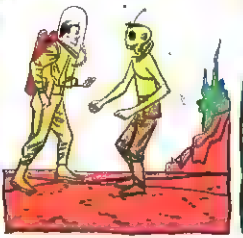
FIRST COLOR PHOTO OF MARS—TAKEN IN 1955 AT LOWELL OBSERVATORY

ALTHOUGH A "YEAR" ON MARS IS EQUAL TO 678 EARTH-DAYS, A "DAY" ON MARS IS BUT 40 MINUTES LONGER THAN AN EARTH-DAY...


WE WERE BORN ON THE SAME DAY, EARTHMAN, BUT YOU ARE 30 YEARS OLD, EARTH-TIME—AND I AM 16 YEARS OLD, ACCORDING TO THE MARTIAN CALENDAR.

IF ALL THE WATER PRESENT ON MARS COULD BE RELEASED AT ONE TIME, THE TOTAL VOLUME WOULD NOT BE ENOUGH TO FILL EARTH'S *GREAT LAKES*...

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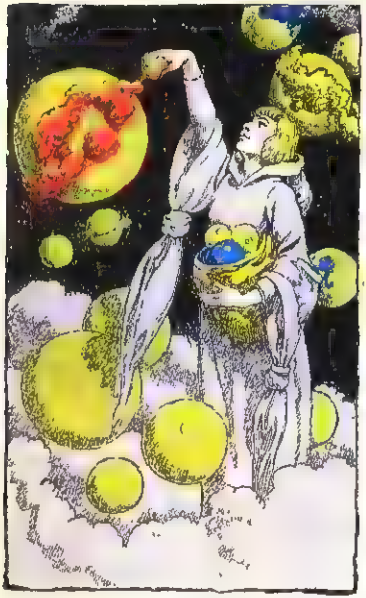
WONDERS of SPACE



PLANETARY ATMOSPHERES!

WHEN scientists talk about interplanetary space-flight, the phrase "velocity of escape" is bound to enter into the discussion. These key words refer to the velocity an object must attain in order to break free of a planet's gravitational attraction.

In the case of *Earth*, the velocity of escape is 7 miles a second; any object that is propelled from our planet with that speed will rush off into space and leave the Earth forever.

Our atmosphere is composed of fast-moving air molecules, and if any of them should attain the velocity of escape while moving directly away from the Earth, it will escape into space and be lost to our atmosphere. It follows then that small worlds with low velocities of escape are less likely to retain atmospheres than heavy planets with great velocities of escape. Applying this formula, let us examine each of the solar system planets and find out how they have fared with their atmospheres.

Starting at "home," the Earth should retain its atmosphere indefinitely. Two heavy gases —nitrogen and oxygen—comprise 99% of the air; the remaining 1% being divided between argon, carbon dioxide, water vapor, and some rare gases. So far as we on Earth are concerned, oxygen is the life-giving gas; nitrogen merely acts as a dilutent and though it is completely harmless, is of no actual use to us.

The planet closest to the sun, Mercury, has such a low velocity of escape (2¼ miles/second), that it must have lost all its lighter gases and held onto only a thin atmosphere of the heavier, slow-moving gases—such as carbon dioxide. Proof of Mercury's thin atmosphere is obtainable when the planet passes across the face of the Sun. At the moment that Mercury just appears against the solar edge, it is seen as a sharply defined dark circle. If it had a dense atmosphere, Mercury would be seen as a blurry disk.

There is no doubt that the planet Venus has a considerable gaseous atmosphere. It is so opaque that we are unable to see through it and gain information about the surface of this second planet from the Sun. Though the telescope is not of much use as far as Venus is concerned, another handy astronomical instrument—the spectroscope—has given us valuable information about the gases which make up its atmosphere. While we might expect the cloudy atmosphere to be composed of life-giving oxygen and water vapor (as on Earth), we actually find nothing but smothering, choking carbon dioxide. Spectroscopic observations have also shown that the cloud layer is in violent motion, leading some astronomers to theorize that the clouds are made up of salts

such as sodium chloride and magnesium chloride.

Of all the other planets, Mars seems to offer the best bet for spawning some type of living organisms. The red-colored planet has a velocity of escape of more than 3 miles a second and can retain a considerable blanket of air. Though very sensitive tests failed to detect water vapor or oxygen in Mars' spectrum, Kuiper found in 1947 carbon dioxide, less than on Venus but more abundant than on Earth. As for the important life-giving oxygen, experiments indicate that Martian air contains less than 1/1000 of the amount present on Earth. The atmosphere is about 60 miles deep, with yellow cloud-like patches in the lowest layer; then a violet layer; above that whitish or blue patches, possibly corresponding to earthly fog and cirrus clouds. Haze has been found to be least dense on the warmest part of the planet, while white clouds often form near the sunset edge. Hence Mars is thought to have a light scattering atmosphere with much haze, gathering in cold conditions but dissipated by warmth.

Jupiter, the giant of the solar system planets, showed very dark lines and bands in its spectra that puzzled astronomers for a long time. In 1932 astronomer Wildt theorized that these bands were produced by ammonia and methane gases, eventually proved to be true. This great variation in the atmosphere of Jupiter as contrasted with Mercury, Venus, Earth, and Mars is due partly to Jupiter's low temperature (because of its greater distance from the sun than the aforementioned planets), but mainly to its enormous mass.

The real significance of ammonia and methane is that both are hydrogen compounds. Ammonia is composed of hydrogen and nitrogen; methane, of hydrogen and carbon. Hydrogen is the most abundant element in the universe, and there is no doubt that both Jupiter and Earth possessed large amounts of it in their earliest days. Whereas hydrogen was able to escape from Earth, Jupiter's mighty gravitational hold kept the hydrogen captive, so that it eventually combined with other elements to form the dense, poisonous, ammonia-methane atmosphere present today. No oxygen is discernible and it seems probable that most of the original oxygen combined with hydrogen to form water. If this is true then deep below the impenetrable outer atmosphere of Jupiter there is a thick ocean of ice.

The beautifully ringed planet Saturn has an atmosphere very much like Jupiter's, but with less ammonia and more methane. As the temperature is around —243°F, about 27° colder than Jupiter's, more of the ammonia has probably been frozen out of Saturn's atmosphere.

Beyond Saturn lies Uranus, with a mass great enough to have retained all the gases of its original atmosphere, including hydrogen. Because of its great distance from the sun, it receives very little heat, and the ammonia must be in a frozen state. Inert gases such as argon and krypton are probably present, while other gases such as oxygen, carbon dioxide, water vapor are frozen out of Uranus' atmosphere.

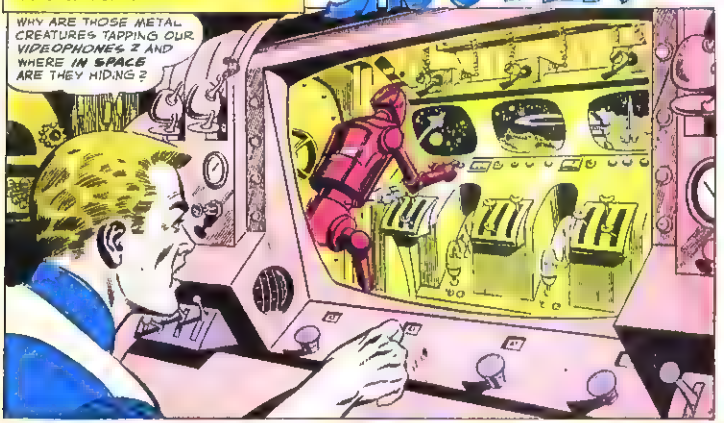
Neptune, the eighth planet outward from the sun, is believed to have an atmosphere almost exactly like that of Uranus. The outer clouds contain a good deal of methane. There is a certain amount of free hydrogen, and probably helium. The bitter cold, —360°F, is enough to freeze practically all the ammonia out of the atmosphere.

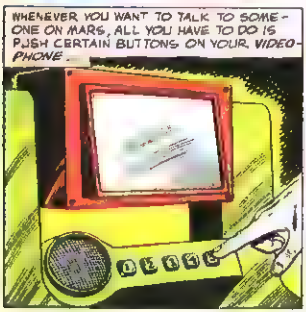
The outermost planet, Pluto, has a —400°F temperature, and consequently is thought to have an atmosphere of hydrogen, helium or neon—anything else would liquefy. The atmosphere would be dense and low-lying, and would cause Pluto to reflect much of the feeble sunlight which falls on it.

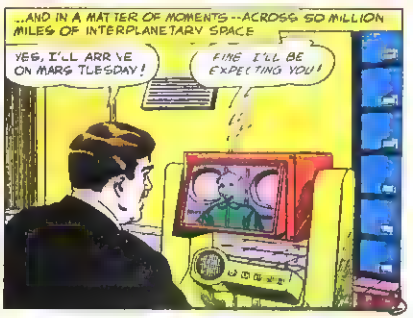
Of all the satellites in the solar system, only one is large enough to retain an atmosphere. Titan, satellite of Saturn, is not only the largest moon of all, but even greater in size than the planet Mercury. Its atmosphere was discovered spectroscopically in 1944 and like that of its present planet is composed mainly of methane. Another curious fact about Titan is that it is the only satellite with a *blue sky*, an effect caused by its atmosphere. All the other atmosphere-less satellites have a black sky.

INTERPLANETARY TROUBLE-SHOOTER!

WHEN SOMEONE BEGAN TAPPING THE VIDEOPHONES OF THE 22ND CENTURY, ACE TROUBLE-SHOOTER AL KYLER WAS SENT OUT TO SCOUR THE SOLAR SYSTEM FOR THE MYSTERIOUS EAVESDROPPER! BUT STRANGELY ENOUGH, THE GREATER THE DISTANCE FROM HIS HOME BASE AL SEARCHED, THE FURTHER AWAY HE MOVED FROM HIS QUARRY--AND THE CLOSER APPROACHED THE DOOM FOR THE SOLAR SYSTEM!





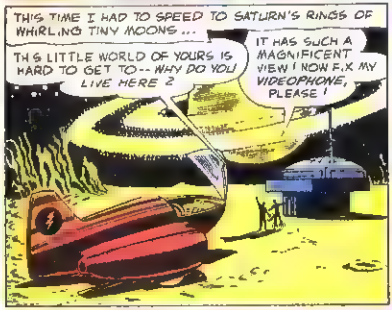

..AND IN A MATTER OF MOMENTS--ACROSS 50 MILLION MILES OF INTERPLANETARY SPACE
YES, I'LL ARRIVE ON MARS TUESDAY!
FINE! I'LL BE EXPECTING YOU!

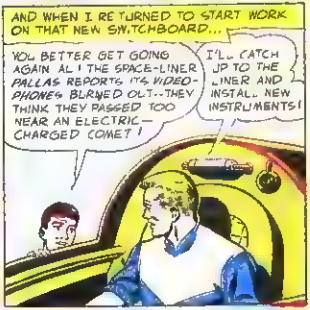
...IT'S NOT SO SIMPLE FOR US WHO WORK OUT AT SOLAR SYSTEM CENTRAL!
EVERY VIDEO-PHONE CALL FROM MERCURY TO PLUTO PASSES THROUGH SOLAR SYSTEM CENTRAL... AND I, AL KYLER, HAVE TO KEEP THEM GOING!
THE AUTOMATIC SWITCHBOARDS ARE ALL OPERATING PERFECTLY! I'LL CHECK NOW WITH THE SPECIAL OPERATORS!
I LIKE TO CHECK WITH THE SPECIAL OPERATORS FOR ONE OF THEM... MARTA MALLEN... IS MY FIANCÉE!...
MR KYLER, A NEW AUTOMATIC SWITCH-BOARD-UNIT WAS DELIVERED DURING THE NIGHT!
WE'LL INSTALL IT AT ONCE--SEE YOU LATER, MARTA!
WE'RE CONTINUALLY ADDING MORE AUTOMATIC SWITCHBOARD UNITS, TO SERVE THE BILLIONS OF VIDEOPHONES IN THE SYSTEM..
THE CIRCUITS IN THIS NEW MODEL ARE SO COM-PLICATED, I CAN'T FOLLOW THEM!
WHEN WE'VE WIRED T IN, IT'LL WORK ALL R GHT!
I'LL NEVER FORGET HOW THE TROUBLE STARTED LATER THAT DAY! THE BIG BOSS CAME IN.
HAVE ANY OF YOU SPECIAL OPERATORS OR SERVICEMEN BEEN LISTENING IN ON PRIVATE CALLS?
WHY, MR. CRAYNE, WE WOULDN'T DREAM OF SUCH A THING!
CLIENTS ON EVERY PLANET HAVE BEEN COMPLAINING THAT THEIR VIDEOPHONES ARE BEING TAPPED! I WANT YOU TO INVESTIGATE, KYLER!
I'LL CHECK IT AT ONCE, SIR!

MARTA AND THE OTHER GIRLS WERE HURT--AND I DIDN'T BLAME THEM!
TO THINK THEY'D SUSPECT US OF EAVES-DROPPING!
DON'T WORRY, DEAR--MAYBE THE TROUBLE'S IN THE NEW SWITCH-BOARD UNIT!
BUT BEFORE WE COULD INSPECT THE NEW UNIT...
THESE JUST CAME IN! TROUBLE CALLS, FROM EVERY PLANET IN THE SYSTEM!
WE'LL HAVE TO TAKE CARE OF THIS EMERGENCY FIRST, MEN!
MY FIRST SERVICE CALL WAS ON A FERY ASTEROID...
YOUR VIDEOPHONE IS BURNED OUT--I GUESS THE TERRIFIC HEAT HERE DID IT!
WHY, WE'RE HAVING A COLD WAVE RIGHT NOW!
NEXT, I SPED TO THE WATERY MOON, TRITON--AND UNDER ITS SEA...
MAYBE ONE OF THOSE GIANT ELECTRIC EELS SHORT-CIRCUITED OUR VIDEOPHONE!
IT'S POSSIBLE--I'LL REPLACE THE BURNED-OUT INSTRUMENT!
IN THE TREE-HOMES OF JUPITER, IT WAS THE SAME TROUBLE!
SO YOUR VIDEOPHONE IS BURNED OUT, TOO!
YES AND I'M NOT SURPRISED--MY WIFE GABBLES ON IT ALL DAY AND THE KIDS TAKE OVER WHEN THEY GET OUT OF SCHOOL!

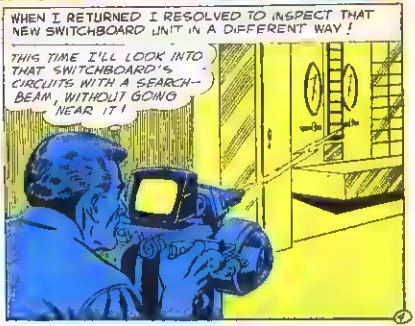
I WAS A WEARY TROUBLE SHOOTER WHEN I GOT BACK TO CENTRAL ...
THE COMPLAINTS OF EAVESDROPPING ARE STILL COMING IN, AL !
I'LL TACKLE THAT JOB NOW, MARTA ! IT MIGHT BE DUE TO WIRING TROUBLES IN THIS NEW SWITCHBOARD UNIT !

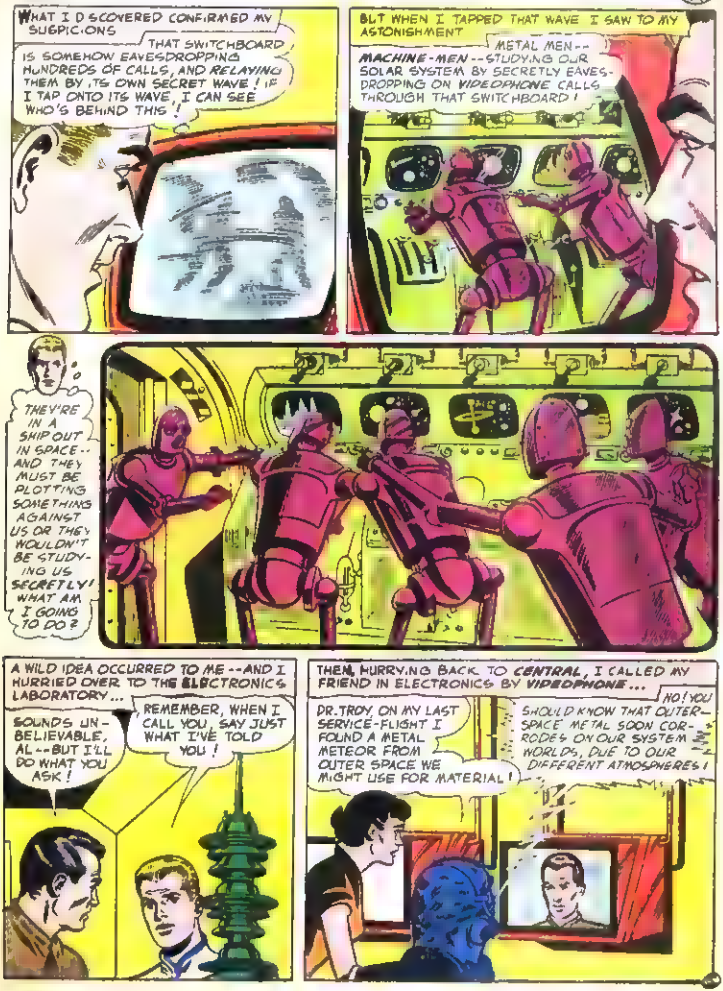
BUT AGAIN -- JUST AS I WAS ABOUT TO CHECK THE BOARD
MORE EMERGENCY-REPAIR JOBS FOR YOU, AL !
THEY WOULD HAVE TO COME THICK AND FAST TODAY ! ALL RIGHT -- I'LL GET GOING !


THIS TIME I HAD TO SPEED TO SATURN'S RINGS OF WHIRLING TINY MOONS ...
THIS LITTLE WORLD OF YOURS IS HARD TO GET TO -- WHY DO YOU LIVE HERE ?
IT HAS SUCH A MAGNIFICENT VIEW ! NOW FIX MY VIDEOPHONE, PLEASE !


AND WHEN I RETURNED TO START WORK ON THAT NEW SWITCHBOARD...
YOU BETTER GET GOING AGAIN, AL ! THE SPACE-LINER PALLAS REPORTS ITS VIDEOPHONES BURNED OUT -- THEY THINK THEY PASSED TOO NEAR AN ELECTRIC-CHARGED COMET !
I'LL CATCH UP TO THE LINER AND INSTAL NEW INSTRUMENTS !

ON THE WAY TO THE SPACE-LINER, A FANTASTIC SUSPICION STRUCK ME !
EVERY TIME I GET SET TO INSPECT THAT NEW SWITCHBOARD, VIDEOPHONES BURN OUT SOMEWHERE AND CALL ME AWAY ! THAT'S TOO COINCIDENTAL .
PALLAS


WHEN I RETURNED I RESOLVED TO INSPECT THAT NEW SWITCHBOARD UNIT IN A DIFFERENT WAY !
THIS TIME I'LL LOOK INTO THAT SWITCHBOARD'S CIRCUITS WITH A SEARCH-BEAM, WITHOUT GOING NEAR IT !


WHAT I DISCOVERED CONFIRMED MY SUSPICIONS
THAT SWITCHBOARD IS SOMEHOW EAVESDROPPING HUNDREDS OF CALLS, AND RELAYING THEM BY ITS OWN SECRET WAVE! IF I TAP ONTO ITS WAVE, I CAN SEE WHO'S BEHIND THIS!
BUT WHEN I TAPPED THAT WAVE I SAW TO MY ASTONISHMENT
METAL MEN--
MACHINE-MEN--STUDYING OUR SOLAR SYSTEM BY SECRETLY EAVESDROPPING ON VIDEOPHONE CALLS THROUGH THAT SWITCHBOARD!
THEY'RE IN A SHIP OUT IN SPACE--AND THEY MUST BE PLOTTING SOMETHING AGAINST US OR THEY WOULDN'T BE STUDYING US SECRETLY! WHAT AM I GOING TO DO?
A WILD IDEA OCCURRED TO ME--AND I HURRIED OVER TO THE ELECTRONICS LABORATORY...
SOUNDS UNBELIEVABLE, AL--BUT I'LL DO WHAT YOU ASK!
REMEMBER, WHEN I CALL YOU SAY JUST WHAT I'VE TOLD YOU!
THEN, HURRYING BACK TO CENTRAL, I CALLED MY FRIEND IN ELECTRONICS BY VIDEOPHONE...
DR. TROY, ON MY LAST SERVICE-FLIGHT I FOUND A METAL METEOR FROM OUTER SPACE WE MIGHT USE FOR MATERIAL!
NO! YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT OUTER-SPACE METAL SOON CORRODES ON OUR SYSTEM'S WORLDS, DUE TO OUR DIFFERENT ATMOSPHERES!

I HAD PLANNED THAT CALL TO BE OVERHEARD, AND IT WAS! FOR THE NEXT MOMENT, OUT OF THE SWITCHBOARD UNIT APPEARED . . .
A MACHINE MAN! MY SEARCH-BEAM SHOWED ONE OF THEM WAS BUILT INTO THAT SWITCHBOARD--RELAYING THE EAVESDROPPED CALLS!
LET ME OUT OF HERE! I'LL CORRODE IF I STAY ON THIS WORLD!
IT WAS YOU, IN THAT SWITCHBOARD UNIT, WHO PUT VIDEOPHONES OUT OF ORDER BY OVERLOADING THEM WITH POWER!
YES, TO KEEP YOU BUSY SO YOU WOULDN'T INSPECT THE SWITCHBOARD AND DISCOVER ME! I'LL EXPLA N--
"WE INTELLIGENT MACHINE MEN WERE MADE BY HUMANS ON A FAR WORLD! WHEN OUR HUMAN CREATORS ALL DIED OUT..."
OUR WORLD IS A BARREN LAND! WE MUST SEEK ANOTHER PLANET ON WHICH TO LIVE!
THIS SHIP WILL TAKE US TO THE NEXT SOLAR SYSTEM!
"SO WHEN WE SECRETLY APPROACHED THIS SYSTEM
THE BEST WAY TO STUDY THESE WORLDS AND FIND IF THEY'RE SUITABLE FOR US IS THROUGH THAT VIDEO-PHONE SYSTEM!
WE'LL BUILD ONE OF US INTO A SWITCHBOARD UNIT TO RELAY INFORMATION FROM ALL PLANETS TO US! WE CAN LEAVE THE UNIT THERE AT NIGHT, AS IF IT WERE ONE OF THEIR REGULAR DELIVERIES!
BUT SINCE OUTER-SPACE METAL CORRODES ON YOUR WORLDS, WE CANNOT STAY HERE! I'VE CALLED OUR SHIP TO COME PICK ME UP!
THEY BETTER HURRY BEFORE THE CORROSION AFFECTS YOU!
AND AS THE STRANGE SHIP PICKED UP THE MECHANICAL EAVESDROPPER AND SPED AWAY...
THANK GOODNESS YOUR TRICK DROVE THEM AWAY, AL!
THEY'LL NEVER COME BACK HERE, MARTA! IT JUST GOES TO SHOW THAT AN INTERPLANETARY TROUBLE-SHOOTER CAN FIX ANYTHING!
Jack Kirby

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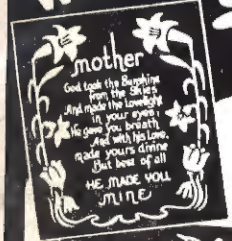
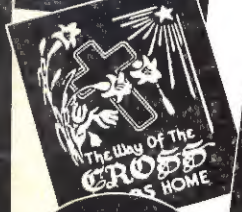


CHILD'S PRAYER
Now I Lay me down to Sleep,
I pray the Lord
my soul to keep.
If I should Die before I
Wake,
I pray the Lord
my soul to take



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